

CLAIMS

1. A protective wire net comprising an array of longitudinal wires (12) arranged side by side and each intertwined with at least one respective adjacent longitudinal wire (12), characterized in that it further comprises one or more longitudinal metal cables (14) each intertwined or interlaced with at least one adjacent longitudinal wire (12).
2. A protective wire net according to Claim 1, characterized in that the one or more longitudinal metal cables (14) are interposed between the array of longitudinal wires (12).
3. A protective wire net according to Claim 2, characterized in that it comprises a plurality of the said longitudinal metal cables (14) arranged at regular intervals relative to one another and alternating with one or more wires (12).
4. A protective wire net according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one of the longitudinal metal cables (14) defines an edge of the net.
5. A protective wire net comprising an array of longitudinal wires (12) arranged side by side and each intertwined with at least one respective adjacent longitudinal wire (12), characterized in that it further comprises one or more transverse wires (34) and/or metal cables (16) arranged in a transverse direction relative to the longitudinal wires (12) and outside intertwining regions (22) defined by portions (20) of adjacent longitudinal wires (12) which are bent around one another, the transverse wires (34) and/or metal cables (16) being intertwined or interlaced with one or more of the longitudinal wires (12).

6. A protective wire net according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it further comprises the characteristics defined in Claim 5.
7. A protective wire net according to Claim 6, characterized in that it comprises anchoring means (18) for anchoring one or more transverse wires (34) and/or metal cables (16) to one or more longitudinal wires (12) and/or longitudinal metal cables (14).
8. A protective wire net according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the anchoring means (18) comprise at least one ring or eye, or a portion of longitudinal and/or transverse cable (14, 16) that is bent and secured to itself in order to form a loop-like element (42), which is provided on the longitudinal and/or transverse metal cables (14, 16) and through which at least one longitudinal wire (12) or one longitudinal or transverse metal cable (14, 16) extends.
9. A protective wire net according to any one of Claims 6 to 8, characterized in that the transverse cables (16) comprise bent portions of the longitudinal cables (14).
10. A protective wire net according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is a double-twist net with hexagonal meshes.
11. A protective structure, characterized in that it comprises at least one protective wire net (10) according to any one of Claims 1 to 10 and fixing means for fixing the net to a slope.
12. A protective structure according to Claim 11, characterized in that it comprises at least two of the said

protective wire nets (10) joined together by coupling means (42).

13. A protective structure according to Claim 12, characterized in that the coupling means comprise at least one longitudinal and/or transverse metal cable (14, 16).

14. Use of a protective wire net according to any one of Claims 1 to 10 for the construction of a protective structure according to any one of Claims 11 to 13.